Safeguarding the Interest of Minorities

2174. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite economic boom Muslim minorities have to bare the brunt of the so called 'competitive' forces unleashed by liberalization; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for safeguarding the interests of the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) This is mentioned in Chapter Two of the High Level Committee report on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India which was tabled in the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 2006.

(b) The response of government to the recommendations of the Committee is being finalized.

National Commission for Welfare of Socially and Economically Weaker Sections

†2175. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the National Commission for the welfare of socially and economically weaker sections among religious and linguistic minorities has been constituted and if so, the members thereof;

(b) the details of the main responsibilities (work) entrusted to this Commission; and

(c) the details of the action being taken to provide reservation in Government jobs to religious and linguistic minorities on the basis of their economic backwardness?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The Government have constituted the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities *vide* Resolution dated 29th October, 2004 and its tenure has been extended upto 31st March, 2007. The members of the Commission are as under:—

(1)	Justice (Retd) Ranganath Misra	Chairperson
(2)	Prof. (Dr.) Tahir Mahmood	Member

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(3)	Dr. Anil Wilson	Member
(4)	Dr. Mohinder Singh	Member
(5)	Smt. Asha Das	Member-Secretary

The Terms of Reference of the Commission are as follows:

(i) to suggest criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities;

(ii) to recommend meausres for welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and government employment;

(iii) to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities, as required for the implementation of their recommendations, and to present a Report of their deliberations and recommendations;

(iv) to give its recommendations on the issues raised in W.P. 180/04 and 94/05 filed in the Supreme Court and in certain High Courts relating to para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the context of ceiling of 50% reservation as also the modalities of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

Enrolment of Muslims in Schools in Rural and Urban Areas

2176. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the enrolment of Muslims in schools, both in rural and urban areas, is less then SCs/STs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether his Ministry is planning to increase Muslim enrolment in schools, at least to the level of SCs/STs by 2008?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the Sachar Committee Report, "In 1999-2000, Muslims had the lowest enrolment rate among all SRCs (socio-religious communities) except SCs/STs."

(c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented with the objective, among other things, for universalisation of elementary education.